



TOWN OF GRAFTON
GRAFTON MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL CENTER
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**SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
April 18, 2023
7:00PM
Conference Room A
AND
via Zoom**

RECEIVED TOWN CLERK
GRAFTON, MA
2023 MAY -5 1 PM 1:36

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Chair Colleen Roy. In attendance were Chair Colleen Roy, Vice Chair Mat Often, Clerk Andy Jefferson, and Ann Marie Foley. Ray Mead was absent. Staff in attendance were Town Administrator Evan Brassard and Assistant Town Administrator William Blake.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Roy read the following announcements:

- The Recreation Department is holding a Community Outreach Meeting on Wednesday, April 26 at 7:00pm via Zoom to present the Norcross Park Inclusive Playground Project to be voted on at Town Meeting. Project and meeting information can be found at tinyurl.com/NorcrossParkPlayground.
- The Town of Grafton is proud to introduce its first town-wide curbside composting program in partnership with Black Earth Composting. The first 500 residents who sign up will receive a free composting starter kit. Visit grafton-ma.gov/855/Composting for more information.

1. PUBLIC HEARINGS

a) Class II Auto License – Trade Auto Sales Inc at 21 Shrewsbury Street

Mr. Jefferson read the Legal Notice.

Mr. Jefferson made a motion seconded by Mr. Often to open the public hearing. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Anderson Saldanha spoke about growing his business from Worcester to Grafton.

Mr. Often made a motion seconded by Mr. Jefferson to close the public hearing. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Mr. Jefferson made a motion seconded by Ms. Foley to approve a Class II Auto License for Anderson and Maria Saldanha of Trade Auto Sales Inc located at 21 Shrewsbury Street in North Grafton. Motion passed 4 – 0.

b) Pole Petition by National Grid – Institute Road

Mr. Jefferson read the Legal Notice.

Mr. Jefferson made a motion seconded by Mr. Often to open the public hearing. Motion passed 4 – 0.

There were no questions or comments from the Select Board or the public.

Mr. Jefferson made a motion seconded by Mr. Often to close the public hearing. Motion passed 4 – 0.

Mr. Jefferson made a motion seconded by Ms. Foley to approve and sign the Institute Road Pole Petition by National Grid. Motion passed 4 – 0.

2. APPOINTMENTS/SELECT BOARD

a) Veterans Advisory Committee – Richard Kirejczyk

Mr. Kirejczyk spoke about his interest in filling James Gallagher's vacancy on the Veterans Advisory Committee and his service on the Board of Health.

Mr. Jefferson made a motion seconded by Ms. Foley to appoint Richard Kirejczyk to the Veterans Advisory Committee. Motion passed 4 – 0.

b) Grafton Housing Authority, Tennant Seat – David K. Callahan

Mr. Callahan stated that he plans to meet with Amanda Brady of the Grafton Housing Authority to discuss the position and spoke about his interest in volunteering.

Mr. Jefferson made a motion seconded by Mr. Often to appoint David Callahan to the Tennant Seat of the Grafton Housing Authority. Motion passed 4 – 0.

c) ZBA Alternate

- i. Jiffy Thomas
- ii. Nicole Berger
- iii. Beverly Gosselin

Mr. Thomas discussed his interest in serving as the ZBA Alternate with the Board.

Ms. Berger and Ms. Gosselin were absent.

Mr. Jefferson made a motion seconded by Ms. Foley to appoint Jiffy Thomas as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion passed 4 – 0.

d) Conservation Commission – Emily Herzfeld

Ms. Herzfeld described her interest in conservation and her wish to volunteer for the role.

Mr. Jefferson made a motion seconded by Ms. Foley to appoint Emily Herzfeld to the Conservation Commission. Motion passed 5 – 0.

3. APPOINTMENTS/TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

a) Cemetery Caretakers

- i. Scott Hutchins

ii. Christopher Alex

Mr. Jefferson made a motion seconded by Ms. Foley to affirm the appointments of Scott Hutchins and Christopher Alex as Cemetery Caretakers for the Town of Grafton. Motion passed 4 – 0.

4. NEW BUSINESS/CONTINUED BUSINESS

a) One Day Beer & Wine License – Apple Tree Arts

Elizabeth Spinney spoke about the Night with a Psychic on April 26 and the Great Hall Gala fundraising event on April 29.

Mr. Jefferson made a motion seconded by Ms. Foley to approve a One Day Beer & Wine License for Apple Tree Arts on April 26, 2023. Motion passed 4 – 0.

b) One Day All Alcohol License – Apple Tree Arts

Mr. Jefferson made a motion seconded by Ms. Foley to approve a One Day All Alcohol License for Apple Tree Arts on April 29, 2023. Motion passed 4 – 0.

c) Review Articles Submitted by Citizens' Petitions for Spring Town Meeting

i. Article 34: Resolution in Support of Changing the Flag & Seal of Massachusetts

Chantelle Kimball stated that Article 34 acknowledges the history of colonization and genocide in Massachusetts and calls on state leadership to create a new state seal and state flag. She noted that the language of the resolution was developed with the input of current tribal members, described the challenges faced by the commission tasked with creating a new seal/flag, and highlighted the significance of Grafton's support.

Mr. Often appreciated the scheduling of an informational session on April 24 and the clarity of the message that this article would send to the state.

ii. Article 35: Remove Article 35 - Affordable Housing Trust By-Law

Ms. Roy stated that the petitioner would not be attending this meeting.

d) Update on Early Voting with the Town Clerk

Town Clerk Kandy Lavallee stated that on April 13, the Board of Registrars recommended not to have early voting for the local election this year. To answer a question from Ms. Roy, she stated that mail-in voting would still be offered.

Mr. Often and Ms. Foley encouraged Ms. Lavallee to make sure the voting options are clear to residents.

Ms. Foley, Ms. Lavallee, and Mr. Brassard discussed the Board not needing to take any action regarding the newly appointed Interim Registrar whose term would expire on May 2, 2023.

e) Land Acknowledgement

Mr. Jefferson presented the updated Land Acknowledgement and agreed to read it aloud at Town Meeting on May 8, 2023.

Mr. Jefferson made a motion seconded by Mr. Ofen to accept the Land Acknowledgement as amended. Motion passed 4 – 0.

f) Close and Sign the Town Meeting Warrant

In response to a question from Ms. Foley, Mr. Brassard stated that Mr. Blake drafts the consent agendas. He agreed to check that the links to ClearGov are working properly, and the budget is accessible.

Mr. Jefferson made a motion seconded by Mr. Ofen to close the Annual Town Meeting warrant for May 8, 2023 and sign. Motion passed 4 – 0.

5. SELECT BOARD REPORTS – None

6. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Brassard and Mr. Blake gave the following presentation:

BUDGET PROCESS

- Finance Committee Hearings: Complete
- Cherry Sheet: House Budget increases roughly \$88,000.00
- Capacity: Currently \$133,000
- Logistics Meeting: 4/26/2023 @ 7:00pm via Zoom only

OTHER UPDATES

- Pickleball
 - Thank you, Recreation Department!
 - 5700 Residents email survey: Sent February 28th and April 7th
 - Recreation Commission Meetings
 - Weekly Reports
 - Facebook
 - Website Project Page
 - Signage onsite
- Attended Prentice Place site walk/meeting
- Met with paving contractor to review municipal center parking lot project
- Held TA Office hour at the Senior Center
- Attended Dull Men's Club (William)
- Met to discuss MVP Grant for George Hill Rd (William)
- Attended Mass Chief's Annual Tradeshow
- D,E,& I Audit – First draft received – 4/18/2023
- Main Street Update
 - Fisherville Terrace – Drainage work started today

- Contractor for rest of the project due back any day. Projected winter conditions which haven't materialized.
- Wall Work Mid-Late May

Mr. Brassard noted that the construction around some of the war memorials should all be completed by Memorial Day.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

The Board did not have any questions or comments regarding the correspondence.

8. RESIGNATIONS – None

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ed Prisby of 25 Danielle Drive acknowledged the obstacles faced by the Affordable Housing Trust and highlighted that the new committee proposed by the petitioner of Town Meeting Warrant Article 35 could not receive the same CPA funds. He spoke about the history of housing in Grafton and called on the Board to advocate at Town Meeting for the Trust and for the goal to provide affordable housing.

10. MEETING MINUTES – None

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

ADJOURN

Ms. Foley made a motion seconded by Mr. Often to adjourn. Motion passed 4 – 0.

The Select Board's meeting materials are available at: <https://www.grafton-ma.gov/AgendaCenter/Select-Board-4>

A recording of this meeting is available at: https://youtu.be/09ZJ_13cCKw